**Paddy Crop affected by Brown Plant Hopper in Karnataka**

1111. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
DR. SHYAM SUNDAR MOHAPATRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the acreage of paddy crop in Karnataka recently affected by brown plant hopper;

(b) what has been the production losses as result thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken to contain the disease;

(d) whether any relief has been provided to the affected farmers; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR): (a) An area of about 43,000 hectares under summer paddy crop in Karnataka State was reportedly affected by Brown Plant Hopper.

(b) The production losses have not been fully estimated. However, for the district of Shimoga, it is reported to be approx. 19,000 Mts.

(c) The steps taken to contain the pest included education to farmers about suitable control measures through various mass-media techniques, ensuring adequate supply of pesticides, providing subsidy towards the cost of pesticides, etc.

(d) The State Government is reported to have spent an amount of Rs. 26.18 lakhs towards the cost of pesticides for free distribution of pesticides to small and marginal farmers. Besides a subsidy of Rs. 7.89 lakhs towards 50 per cent cost of pesticdies has been provided to other farmers to undertake control operations in the affected areas.

(e) Question does not arise.

**Government help to Small and Medium Newspapers**

1112. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state what steps Government have taken or are taking to help the growth of small and medium newspapers in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V.N. GADGIL): A statement giving details of facilities extended to 'small' and 'medium' newspapers at present is enclosed.

**Statement**

*FACILITIES EXTENDED TO 'SMAL' AND 'MEDIUM' NEWSPAPERS*

(A) *Facility extended by Press Registrar:*

The Newsprint Allocation policy for the year 1985-86 is yet to be formulated. However, under the policy of 1984-85, the following facilities were available to them:

(i) Newsprint is supplied in sheets to the newspapers which are printed on sheetfed machines. In case, where sheets are not available, an additional 5 per cent of their entitlement is given to them for conversion of reels into sheets;

(ii) The newspapers with entitlement less than 300 M.T. were given the option to obtain imported or indigenous newsprint either in part or in full;

(iii) The validity period of authorisation for newspapers where entitlement was upto 50 tonnes was six months as against three months in the case of others. This concession enables a large majority of